

U.S. Pat. Appl'n 10/823,013  
Amendment

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

*Kindly cancel Claims 10 and 12 without prejudice or disclaimer as indicated below.*

1. (Previously presented) A materials tester latching coupling device comprising:  
a housing securable to a material tester, having a bore, a groove within said bore, and a groove wall;  
an interfacier having a shank, a shoulder, and an annular flange formed on said shank, said shank insertable into said bore, said interfacier comprising a penetrator; and  
a resilient member positioned within said groove and having first and second portions, wherein when said shank is inserted into said bore, said first portion of said resilient member is supported by said annular flange of said interfacier and said second portion of said resilient member is supported by said groove wall of said housing,  
and wherein said latching coupling device is used in conjunction with a penetration hardness tester.
2. (Previously presented) A materials tester latching coupling device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said annular flange has an angled surface.
3. (Original) A materials tester latching coupling device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein when said shank is inserted into said bore, said shank and an inner wall of said bore substantially do not contact each other except at said resilient member.
4. (Original) A materials tester latching coupling device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said shank includes a flat portion adapted for use with a spring-loaded-ball assembly.
5. (Cancelled).
6. (Original) A materials tester latching coupling device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said resilient member comprises one of a spring and an elastomer O-ring.

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7. (Original) A materials tester latching coupling device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said resilient member is a canted coil spring.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)